

The Beacon

The United States Coast Guard Band
Summer 2018



SCHEDULE OF CONCERTS AND EVENTS

THE COAST GUARD DIXIELAND JAZZ BAND AT FORT TRUMBULL

Sunday, May 27, 1:00 p.m., Fort Trumbull State Park, New London, Connecticut (Rain Date, May 28)

The Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band will perform an outdoor show featuring traditional Dixieland Jazz music.

DIXIELAND BAND CELEBRATES “MAKE MUSIC DAY” IN NEW LONDON

Thursday, June 21, 5:00 p.m., City Pier, New London Waterfront Park

The Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band will perform to celebrate International Make Music Day at the New London City Pier.

STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER

Sunday, July 1, 2:00 p.m., Leamy Concert Hall

LCDR Williamson leads the band in an exciting concert of American classics and patriotic music. The program includes Bernstein's overture to *Candide*, as well as selections by Morton Gould, John Philip Sousa, and John Williams. Soprano soloist MU1 Megan Weikleenget will perform Samuel Barber's classic piece *Knoxville, Summer of 1915*.

MUSIC ON THE RIVER WITH THE COAST GUARD DIXIELAND JAZZ BAND

Monday, July 2, 6:30 p.m., Goodspeed Opera House Lawn, 6 Main St., East Haddam, Connecticut

(Rain Date, July 3)

The Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band will perform an outdoor show featuring traditional Dixieland Jazz music on the lawn of the Goodspeed Opera House.

THURSDAYS ON THE DOCK IN ESSEX WITH THE COAST GUARD DIXIELAND JAZZ BAND

Thursday, July 5, 5:30 p.m., Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main St., Essex Connecticut

The Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band will perform an outdoor show featuring traditional Dixieland Jazz music.

RETIRE THE COLORS!

Sunday, July 29, 7:00 p.m., Cadet Memorial Field, United States Coast Guard Academy

The Band presents an evening concert on Cadet Memorial Field at The Coast Guard Academy. Music will include Latin works by Texitor, Gandolfini, Ruiz, and Chabrier. The concert will pause at 8 p.m. for the retiring of colors on board the Academy.

THE GUARDIANS BIG BAND AT FORT GRISWOLD

Saturday, August 18, 6:00 p.m., Fort Griswold State Park, 57 Fort St, Groton, Connecticut

Bring a picnic and enjoy a wide variety of big band jazz as the Guardians Big Band performs a concert at Fort Griswold in Groton, Connecticut.

THE COAST GUARD BAND AT FORT TRUMBULL

Sunday, September 2, 1:00 p.m., Fort Trumbull State Park, New London, Connecticut

Join the Band for its annual Labor Day performance of band classics and orchestral transcriptions, complete with Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, accompanied by artillery.

U.S. Coast Guard Band (mb)
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320

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AN INTERVIEW WITH MASTER CHIEF JONATHAN TOWNE

Master Chief Musician Jonathan Towne, clarinetist and current enlisted leader of the Coast Guard Band, has enjoyed a storied career in the ensemble spanning more than thirty years. In June of this year, the time will come for the Band to wish Master Chief Towne “fair winds and following seas” at his retirement ceremony on board the United States Coast Guard Academy. In search of a voice of wisdom and sage advice, The Beacon sat down to a conversation with the Master Chief in April:

BEACON: Master Chief Towne, what was it that initially interested you in a career with the Coast Guard Band more than thirty years ago?

MUCM TOWNE: I was just graduating from Indiana University with a degree in clarinet performance and I knew that the premiere military bands were fantastic groups filled with really good musicians. I saw the advertised clarinet opening and called up a friend who was in the Coast Guard Band. She said it was a great job, so I made the trip from Indiana to New London and won the job. I also like the idea of being back in New England, where I am originally from, rather than in Washington D.C.

BEACON: I would imagine that throughout the course of such a full career there have been many experiences that could be considered by most to be “once-in-a-lifetime.” What are your most memorable two?

MUCM: Traveling to the Soviet Union in 1989 is probably the most memorable one. The USSR had not yet broken up and here is the Coast Guard Band, the first United States military Band to ever play in the Soviet Union, playing concerts in and around Leningrad for ten days. Everyone there was so nice and welcoming, especially the musicians from the Leningrad District Military Band with whom we performed a joint concert. We were all so similar. It really showed that music is the international language.

The other is becoming the drum major of the Band, which was so unexpected. It was not originally a goal of mine, though the former drum major encouraged me to become his assistant, and since his retirement twenty four years ago, I have been the drum major. In this role I have had the honor to lead the Coast Guard Band in six Presidential Inaugural Parades and marched while playing clarinet in two others. I led the Coast Guard Band in parades all over the country and it never got old, seeing how all of the crowds really love the United States Coast Guard.

BEACON: What are your plans for retirement, will you continue playing the clarinet?

MUCM: I am going to stay in southeastern Connecticut and continue playing clarinet in the groups I play in outside of the Coast Guard. My wife is from the west coast so we will have more time to take trips there and visit her family. I love being active outside on my bicycle and hiking, and perhaps some ski trips and sailing will be in my future.

BEACON: What will you miss most about being a part of the Coast Guard Band?

MUCM: Performing and rehearsing with the great musicians of the Coast Guard Band. They all amaze me every day with their incredible talents on all of their instruments. I have also enjoyed all the travel I have done with the Band, the great halls the ensemble has played in throughout the country and on international trips, all the while promoting the United States Coast Guard and all the missions it accomplishes for this great country.

Master Chief Towne is a graduate of Indiana University. In addition to his role in the Coast Guard Band, he presently serves as principal clarinetist of the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and second clarinetist in the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra. In his final concert with the Coast Guard Band in May, Master Chief Towne performed Carl Maria von Weber’s *First Clarinet Concerto* as a soloist, with several alumni joining the ensemble in accompaniment.

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AWARDS, ADVANCEMENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to **MU1 David West** for earning the Coast Guard Achievement Medal for his superior performance of duty as Petty Officer in Charge of the load crew and for his long-standing involvement in helping to run Band auditions.



MUC Jeff Emerich was awarded the Coast Guard Achievement Medal for his service as the Band’s tour coordinator. He successfully planned and managed a 10-day tour in July 2017 through America’s heartland that reached over 6,000 audience members.

SPOTLIGHT: MU1 MEERA GUDIPATI

One of the Band’s newest members, flutist Meera Gudipati, enlisted in the United States Coast Guard as a First Class Petty Officer in January 2018. Before winning a highly competitive audition for the Coast Guard Band, Meera served as acting principal flute with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. A graduate of Yale University and The University of Texas at Austin, she has won multiple flute competitions across the United States and was a fellow at the National Repertory Orchestra, National Orchestral Institute, Brevard Music Festival, Oberstdorfer Musikakademie, Académie Internationale d’Eté de Nice, France, and the Round Top Festival Orchestra.

I am very fortunate to have won the co-principal flute audition with the Coast Guard Band during a thorough audition process in which the Coast Guard tests all your abilities ranging from technical ability to communication and section playing. I have enjoyed working with my fellow talented musicians in a fostering and constructive environment. This opportunity means a lot to me, in part because I have the opportunity to represent the Coast Guard and perform for ceremonies in Washington, D.C., and connect with the community through chamber music projects.

-MU1 Meera Gudipati

